

Appl. No. 09/977,960
Amdt. Dated 01/04/2006
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2005

Amendments to the specification

Please replace the paragraph commencing at page 12, line 13 with the following paragraph:

-- IP Routing 68 runs an IP interior gateway or routing protocol such as IBGP, ISIS, PIM, RIP or OSPF. ~~(The reader is referred to <http://www.ietf.org/html-charters/w-ds.html> for further information concerning these protocols.)~~ As a result of these activities IP Routing 68 maintains a master IP routing table 75 schematically shown in FIG. 6. Each record of the master table 75 includes a field 75a for an IP address field, a field 75b for the next hop router ID (which is an IP address in itself) corresponding to the destination IP address or a prefix thereof, and a list 75c of egress interface indexes associated with the next hop router ID. As the network topology changes, IP Routing will update the forwarding tables 30 of IP forwarders 22 by sending the appropriate egress interface index to it. (Note that table 30 only has one egress interface index associated with each IP destination address entry.) --